

Go care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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SQUARE DEALS.

The National Tribune has reason to believe that all advertisers submitted to its columns are thoroughly reliable.

If Mr. Yerkes's spirit gets a chance to read the papers, he learns that after-death roasting is not confined to the lower regions.

The Brooklyn Times mildly hints that as Gen. Theo. F. Bingham never really "set a squadron in the field," he did not earn an old soldier's privilege of swearing as volubly as he does.

The legislator, like the worm, will turn. Only the legislator seems "most always" turning. They that make the laws for the State of New York have turned on the railroads, and they are now saying, "No passes, no legislation on grade crossings." The New York Central has begun improvements in this direction which will cost \$1,000,000, and of which the State should pay \$250,000, but the legislators say not a cent shall be appropriated unless passes are restored.

The utter failure of the Russian insurgents to even set up a pretense of a Government anywhere is rapidly divorcing the sympathy of the world from them. They seem absolutely destitute of any qualities of organization, leadership or construction, and can only burn, throw bombs and murder until wearied and hungry, when they subside into quiet. It is Socialism and Anarchy shown in action, and the failure of all the anarchistic and socialistic theories is demonstrated very conclusively.

They have all they want of free coinage in China. Any Mandarin can set up a mint, and coin all the copper cash he can get the people of his Province to take. The only limits on him are the price of copper and the quantity the people will take. Other smart Chinamen have tried to get into the business by buying in America the copper already stamped out in plain disks, upon which they would put their "chop," but the Mandarins have made a regulation prohibiting this, so as to retain the profitable business in their own hands. Our Treasury expert estimates that there are over \$16,000,000,000 of these coins in circulation. They are strong 1,000 in a bunch, for trade purposes, and there is no limit to the legal tender quality.

Now we are likely to find out just how much of a man ex-Gov. Odell of New York is. He has been the target for most of the Republican press of the State for more than a year, and accused of being and doing about everything that a public man should not. The faithful minority which clung to him has been overwhelmed by the Presidential-Senatorial-and-Gubernatorial combination, so that it was not a good third in the caucus. If Mr. Odell is what his enemies say, this is his finish. If he has the force and character that a man who has occupied his position should have, he can turn his present humiliation to greater success than ever. We fear that he has not those qualities. The revelations in the ship-building and insurance investigations indicate that he is only any ordinary grafter who has been found out and consigned to oblivion.

An utterance on the subject of aerial navigation which is entitled to more than ordinary consideration is by Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, who has been devoting a great deal of time and labor to the problem, and has just returned from some successful experiments in Nova Scotia, where he succeeded in lifting a 185-pound man 30 feet above the ground. His apparatus was on the kite principle, and he declares positively that successful aerial navigation may come any day, and men will be able to soar after the manner of the eagle, which utilizes the energy of the wind against which it flies for its own propulsion, merely using its muscles directionally. Prof. Bell expects that airships propelled by engines will come first, but later men will imitate the eagle's flight. One of his own kites sailed so realistically that the eagle in the vicinity attempted to attack it.

A very vigorous house-cleaning and work of retrenchment is going on in the New York insurance companies, beginning with the New Year. The Mutual Life has notified all its agents that the Commission, after Jan. 1, on deferred dividend policies will be 60 per cent, instead of 75 per cent as heretofore. This means a reduction of hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in the running expenses. The Mutual will abolish five large agencies which are on the commission basis. Paul Morton, President of the Equitable, informs the agents that the rule against rebating, which has been a dead letter, will be strictly enforced, with severe punishment upon any violation. There is some talk of inserting a clause in all policies nullifying them if a rebate is accepted by the insured.

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS.

The rebels fired on Fort Sumter April 12, 1861, and the shot was not only "heard around the world," but it seemed the knell of this Government, which had been founded by Washington and his devoted soldiers and co-laborers, and which had cost such a lifetime of blood, toil and treasure to establish.

April 15, 1861, Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 men to aid him in maintaining the integrity of the Nation, and \$1,816 responded by enlisting in the army. Substantially, every one of these young men was in the prime of life, and at the beginning of a career which promised him a comfortable support, with competence at the end. Every one of these relinquished this fair prospect, a while at least, to give his best energies to saving the imperiled country, and the only return made, beside the consciousness of doing a patriotic duty, was a meager pay of \$11 a month, probably not a third of the average wages of the men in their various callings.

The emergency grew so terribly and so rapidly that May 3, 1861, President Lincoln called for 500,000 more men, and the public appreciation of the crisis outran the President's call, for under it 700,680 men enlisted. They received \$13 a month, but this was even less of a return for the wages and opportunities sacrificed than the \$11 a month, since these men had to give up everything else for three years, and devote themselves solely to the cause of saving the country.

Even this vast host of men was found to be insufficient. In July, 1862, 15,000 three-months men were called out, and July 2, 1862, 300,000 men for three years were called for, and 421,465 responded. Aug. 4, 1862, 87,588 men for nine months were taken into service, and followed, June 15, 1863, by 16,361 men for six months' service. Possibly a majority of these shorter-term men were those who had families or parents depending upon them for support, and who, though as patriotic as their comrades, yet felt that they could not abandon their families to the charities of the community for so long a period as three years.

The pay of \$13 a month would be meager support for even one person left at home.

Oct. 17, 1863, and Feb. 1, 1864, calls were made for 500,000 more, to which 369,380 men responded.

March 14, 1864, 200,000 more three-year men were called for, and 292,193 obtained. At that time wages and the prices of all that a farmer raised or a mechanic made were going up rapidly, and every man who obeyed the country's call had to sacrifice all these for \$13 a month, or less than the merest errand boy or apprentice was then receiving.

In the summer of 1864 83,612 men enlisted for 100 days. These were largely married men, who felt that a summer's work and wages were all that they had a moral right to take away from the support of their families.

The pay was raised to \$16 a month, in paper, but such was the depreciation of the currency that this represented half the purchasing power of the \$11 a month in gold of the first three months' service. The monthly pay was absolutely no consideration to furnish the men in the field with the bare necessities outside of their rations and equipment.

July 18, 1864, 500,000 men were called for, and 386,461 furnished. Dec. 15, 1864, 300,000 men were called for, and 212,212 furnished.

In all, the States were credited with furnishing 2,772,408 men, under the various calls. Reducing all these various terms to three years, the aggregate is 2,326,272.

Every one of this incomprehensible host of men made a direct and actual sacrifice in order to serve the imperiled country. Besides giving his strength and time, and daring the undeniable and positive dangers of disease and battle, each man made a rich money contribution in sacrificed wages and opportunities over the man who stayed at home. No matter how generous some rich men were in their gifts to the Government, no man gave actually as much of his wealth as did the man who left his shop or his farm, with all that it had to offer him, to shoulder a musket at \$13 a month. The rich man gave a few thousands which he knew he could readily replace within a few days in his profitable operations. The man who took up the musket gave from his little that which he could never replace. His youth, his health, strength and opportunities were like the manna in the desert. They must be used to-day or never.

When all these facts are taken into consideration, when it is recalled how the men who did not enlist prospered exceedingly, laying the foundations of great fortunes which their children are enjoying; when it is remembered that the total wealth of the country was only \$16,000,000,000 when the war began, where it is now more than \$100,000,000,000, all of which was only made possible by what the soldiers did, it would certainly seem that a service pension of \$12 a month to the survivors of that great army for the few years that yet remain to them is in decency make. It should be given at once, while the need of these men in their declining years is the sorest.

"SCALPING TICKETS."

Justice Leventritt, of the Ohio Supreme Court, has made another decision which adds to the reputation of that judiciary for innovations, if not improvements, in the science of judicature. Justice Leventritt's decision will be likely to meet wide approval. He discharged from custody Archibald C. Newburn, a traveling salesman, who was arrested by the railroad on the charge of forging the name of George F. Whitcomb on a railroad ticket. It was a round-trip ticket between New York and Indianapolis over the New York Central, Lake Shore and Big Four Railroads, and which purchased Whitcomb was requested to sign his name and to agree to sign whenever requested. He sold his ticket to Newburn, who signed Whitcomb's name and was arrested. The case has been pending in the courts for several months. Judge Leventritt held that the mere sale to Whitcomb carried with it the right to sign his name by any other purchaser. This seems to bring a ray of clear, common sense upon transactions which the railroads have surrounded with a vast deal of mysterious nonsense. The pretense of the railroads that there is something personal and individual about the sale of railroad tickets which makes their being "scalped" a crime will not hold good in common sense and should not in law. The railroads are common carriers, and are obliged by law to carry all those who present themselves and in the order of their appearance. It was absolutely none of the railroad's business whether the man who presented himself for carriage was named Whitcomb or Newburn. It had simply contracted to carry a man of ordinary weight and other characteristics safely to a certain place. The name of the man was immaterial. We have this trouble at every National Encampment, and there seems no reason whatever for the vexation which the railroads impose upon those who attend. For example, at the next National Encampment they will sell a ticket to John Jones at Goshen, Ind., to go to Minneapolis and return. They will put John Jones through a whole lot of absolutely unnecessary trouble in signing his name and having his ticket validated at Minneapolis, etc., etc. In point of fact, it is absolutely none of the railroad's business, and it is not even good policy for them to make all this friction to prevent Peter Smith from going out of Minneapolis on a ticket bought by John Jones. Even if John Jones does sell his return ticket he is not going to stay in Minneapolis always. He will have to go out some time, and when he does he will have to buy a first-class ticket, and therefore the railroad will, in the end, get just as much money as if Peter Smith had been compelled to buy a first-class ticket in order to leave Minneapolis. Justice Leventritt's decision will probably have a good effect in mitigating some unnecessary annoyance to travelers.

Patrick O'Mara, in the Florists' Exchange, objects very severely to the "spineless cactus," which some wild-eyed magazine writer said was to "turn the arid desert into populous plains." Mr. O'Mara says that the spineless cactus (Opuntia), while rare, are not unknown, and that cacti have been for a long time used as feed for cattle, one method being to burn the spines off and another to cut them up with a machine. After 24 hours the spines will become so soft that cattle can eat it without harm. Mr. O'Mara also denies Burbank the credit of originating the white blackberries. Mark T. Thompson pronounces the famous Shasta Daisy a humbug and the Twentieth Century Dahila no better. At the same time it is freely admitted that Mr. Burbank's enthusiasm in his work and the publicity which has been given it has been of the greatest service in attracting the attention of thousands of workers to that branch of effort and popularizing the study of plant growth and development.

GEN. BINGHAM AS POLICE COMMISSIONER.

Theodore A. Bingham accepts the position of Police Commissioner of New York with a light-hearted confidence that may mean ignorance of the rocks upon which his predecessors have been wrecked, or it may mean complete confidence in his own powers to overcome difficulties that they may not have met. The police conditions in New York are exceedingly onerous, and there have been several good and able men who have made profound mistakes in dealing with them. Among these was Mr. McAdoo, whom Gen. Bingham supersedes. There is no question about either Mr. McAdoo's honesty or his ability, but he tackled a job which he did not, and seemingly could not, understand, and although he worked faithfully at it his failure was decided. This is the more remarkable since Mr. McAdoo was a successful lawyer and made an unusually good member of Congress, having served very acceptably through four Congresses. Gen. Bingham is a comparatively young man, having graduated from the Military Academy in 1875. He did good work as an engineer officer and showed unfailing tact, diplomacy and executive ability as the Superintendent of the Public Buildings and Grounds of Washington, D. C. He will have need of all his best in his new position, and there are countless friends throughout the country who will wish him the greatest success.

The agricultural possibilities of Alaska increase constantly. It is now believed that she has a great future in raising potatoes and bees. Mr. A. E. Loring has a potato patch at Knik, 12 miles north of Seward, which yields an average of 400 bushels per acre of splendid potatoes of the highest quality and large size. It is said that the Tanana Valley is made up of soil well adapted to farming purposes, and altogether contains more good land than many great States. The valley is 60 miles wide and 700 miles long, and the Tanana River, which is nearly as big as the Ohio, is navigable for deep-draft boats for 200 miles. Chicago is furnishing capital to build the Alaska Central Railroad, which will open up a fertile country equal in extent to that of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Scotland, and having the same agricultural possibilities of those countries. Anything can be raised there that can be grown in the Dakotas or Minnesota. It is expected that the railroad will run trains every day in the year. Between 1,500 and 2,000 men are now engaged in constructing it, and it is going on at the rate of 100 miles a year.

As we have frequently said, the Norwegians are the most republican people in Europe, and though diplomatic exigencies required the policy of setting up a Kingdom, it will be much more genuinely republican than many pretended Republics. The Norwegians will have none of "Your Majesty," but address their Monarch as "Mr. King," precisely as we say "Mr. President." Haakon accommodates himself cheerfully to the democratic spirit, and is to be seen walking about the streets of Christiania in a most unpretentious manner, carrying his baby boy in his arm. The civil servants of the state wear no uniforms, simple evening dress for the American custom being prescribed for state occasions.

"BURBANKISM."

As was to be expected, there is a violent reaction from the measureless adulation of Luther Burbank in the newspapers and magazines. How much Mr. Burbank himself has been responsible for the ridiculous claims made for him is not clear, but it must be said in his behalf that probably very much the most of it was not warranted in any sense by himself. It is the product of half-educated and unthinking writers who go into extravaganzas that make Mr. Burbank seem ridiculous. The stuff that has been printed about Mr. Burbank is distinctly offensive to all scientific men, and particularly irritating to other workers in the science of plant culture and development. Undoubtedly Mr. Burbank has done a great many creditable things, and he is working along in a sensible, practical, scientific manner to achieve results. He is not a "wizard" or a "creator," as his adulators claim; has not really "created" anything, and is far from doing that which would entitle him to the designation of "wizard." The agricultural and scientific papers are now dissecting him mercilessly as to what he has really accomplished. They say that he has been going on in the manner of all plant-breeders, selecting, hybridizing, propagating by seeds, cuttings, divisions, just as other men do. He has been helped and hindered by a long and more economical working season each year and hindered by the fact that his products are those of that peculiar climate and may not succeed elsewhere. It is claimed that but two of his productions have so far shown any real value. One of these is his Japanese plum, which was an accidental discovery in a number of plums imported from Japan, and the other is the Burbank potato, which he developed before he went to California, and which is simply a somewhat better potato in many respects and for several purposes than other potatoes.

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President McCall, of the New York Life Insurance Co., got into a very tight box in the insurance investigation. Over \$1,000,000 of the Company's money is gone, and no satisfactory explanation has been made of what has become of it. McCall said that "Andy" Hamilton could explain, but Hamilton's explanation failed to explain. Some of this sum was charged up to real-estate, but the real-estate does not appear, but the Company's assets. McCall offered to resign, but he was not permitted to do so until he made good part of the money that was unaccounted for. He finally promised on the witness stand that if Hamilton did not return a certain part of the money or explain its use by Dec. 31, he would make good the amount. This referred to an item of \$235,000. Hamilton did not show what had become of this or offer to refund it, and McCall had to make good his pledge. He gave his check for \$35,000 and security for the remaining \$150,000. There still remained a number of trustees who had faith in McCall and wanted him to remain as President, but the others were firm and he had to go. There were 19 of the trustees who stood up more or less strongly for McCall, but the remainder insisted that the administration of the Company had been so tainted by McCall's operations that it was absolutely indispensable to the future prosperity of the Company that he sever all connection with it. If this was done the Company could appeal successfully for business on the grounds that it had purged itself of its misdoers and would go ahead on a higher plane hereafter. McCall's health broke down under the ordeal of the investigation, and probably he will be numbered among the other physical and mental wrecks of the revelations of 1905.

There are many reasons why the Germans of all classes should feel not a little irritation against this country. It is easy to understand how the great land-holders, the so-called Agrarians, might feel hostile to this country, but without avail. The machine decided to administer a disciplinary lesson to Senator Blackburn, who was entirely too friendly with the malcontents. Judge Thomas H. Paynter, who has hitherto not attracted any attention, was selected as the machine's candidate for Senator Blackburn's seat, and though there were several candidates in the field, the election went through without a hitch, electing not only Paynter but everybody else that was selected by the caucus. Paynter's success was so decided that it must cost the opposition to the machine for a while at least. He received altogether 59 votes to 34 for Blackburn, 10 for Haldeman and two for H. D. Smith.

Railway-rate bills, which will probably be known as the Dilliver-Hepburn Bill, have been introduced into the House by Representatives Hepburn, of Iowa, the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, and by Senator Dilliver, of the similar Senate committee. The bill gives the Interstate Commerce Commission power to establish a maximum reasonable rate for any rate which it finds unreasonable. The Commission is to consist of nine members with a salary of \$10,000 a year each and terms of nine years. The bills differ in some minor details, but probably the two bills will be made to agree and combined into one.

Last year was a record year for beer drinking in Maryland and 1,000,000 barrels of beer were consumed, about 95 per cent of which was brewed and sold in Baltimore. It has been figured

THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE.

For 400 years the people of Europe have been earnestly seeking for a shorter passage around the northern end of the Continent of America to the Indies. This quest has been the subject of innumerable efforts, of immense expenditures of money and of limitless enterprises, hardships and patient labor. Starting from Columbus's discovery of the mainland, followed by the discovery of the Isthmus of Panama, the prevailing impression was that the Continent was about as wide as Mexico, and did not extend very far to the northward. This led to explorations of the Northern Hemisphere, and the explorers being constantly misled by deceptive accounts as to the nearness of the great waters beyond the land. Every one of the rivers on the Atlantic Coast were often ascended in the hope that they would lead to a way across the land to the Pacific. Capt. John Smith thought this when he was pushing the James and Hendrick Hudson was confident that the great river which bears his name would lead him to the "South Sea." The stories the Indians told him of the Great Lakes were strong supports of this belief. When he finally became convinced that he could not reach the Pacific by the way of the Hudson River, he went still farther northward and explored Hudson's Bay. Honors second only to those which had crowned Columbus would come to the man who could find the way directly from the ports of North-western Europe to the Pacific, to China and the Indies. As the shape of the Continent became better known it was seen that the only hope for such a route lay through the frozen Arctic seas, and in the past centuries bold navigators dared all the terrors of the hyperborean latitude in their searching. Our fathers were thrilled with stories of Sir John Franklin, and we have known of what was done by Dr. Kane, Capt. Greely and other intrepid navigators. Now it appears that Capt. Amundsen has at last discovered the Northwest passage, and sailed directly through it from the coast of Greenland to Hercules Bay, northeast from Alaska. We have few particulars of this epoch-making voyage, and Capt. Amundsen seems much more interested in his study of the magnetic pole than in having demonstrated that the Northwest passage really exists. Probably this is because that after it has been found it is seen to be of no commercial value. Apart from the difficulties of reaching that latitude, the channel which Capt. Amundsen's vessel—Gjoa—followed is only nine feet six inches deep, and small as the Gjoa was, part of her cargo had to be thrown overboard in order to permit her passage. This puts a damper on all hopes that the Northwest passage ever can be made a competitor for the Panama Canal.

For a century and a half the sympathies of the English-speaking world have been strongly with the Poles. The Germans and French have understood the Poles better, and known that they were incapable of conducting a Government or having their nationality restored to them. As long as Poland was independent she was a plague-spot in Europe and a continual menace to the peace of the country. Like other Slavs, the Poles seem to be incapable of governing themselves and need firm masters. At the time of the Napoleonic wars the Poles ardently hoped that Napoleon would restore the Kingdom of Poland, but he knew too much of them to attempt it. On the other hand the English and Americans have felt that

"Freedom shrieked when Kosciuszko fell"

and that a great crime was permitted in the dismemberment of Poland among Prussia, Austria and Russia. Periodically the Americans have contributed to the aid of the insurgent Poles and the English have been warmly friendly to them. If there are the men in Poland who can create and maintain a Government now is their golden opportunity. Uprisings in the country have heretofore been crushed by the overwhelming mass of troops which the Russians could move against them. In her present extremity Russia has need all over the empire for every soldier that can be trusted and the Poles could strike for freedom and independence with a pretty certain hope that they could achieve their object. Seemingly they have no such idea, and there has not been the slightest effort to organize the Poles for a war of independence.

While there have been general revolts in all the Northern States against the bosses and the machine, the one in Kentucky, and which is among the very worst, seems to flourish with its old vigor. There has been a good deal of rebelling in Kentucky and among the best men in the Democratic Party against Gov. Beckham and the machine, but without avail. The machine decided to administer a disciplinary lesson to Senator Blackburn, who was entirely too friendly with the malcontents. Judge Thomas H. Paynter, who has hitherto not attracted any attention, was selected as the machine's candidate for Senator Blackburn's seat, and though there were several candidates in the field, the election went through without a hitch, electing not only Paynter but everybody else that was selected by the caucus. Paynter's success was so decided that it must cost the opposition to the machine for a while at least. He received altogether 59 votes to 34 for Blackburn, 10 for Haldeman and two for H. D. Smith.

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Last year was a record year for beer drinking in Maryland and 1,000,000 barrels of beer were consumed, about 95 per cent of which was brewed and sold in Baltimore. It has been figured

out that this represents 592,000,000 generous drinks, which it would take a man, who laid in 10 drinks a day, about 140,272 years to get away with. There are 1,250,000 people—men, women and children—in the State of Maryland, and this would imply that each one of them took 474 drinks during the year, or about a glass and a half every day. As certainly one-half of the population never touch beer and probably three-fourths drink it very sparingly, it shows that a small part of the population must have a consuming thirst.

It is questioned among scientific men whether Capt. Amundsen has actually found the magnetic pole. Is there a place and a small point where the magnetic needle dips straight downward? There is probably a wide circle in which it inclines very sharply from the horizontal, but the limits of this circle have always been variable, and the declination of the needle has changed from time to time according to different observers. The prevailing opinion is, therefore, that the magnetic center is a shifting zone with probably no point in its center where the needle points perpendicularly downward. If there is such a point it is probably not stationary, but very changeable.

How history repeats itself. That of two centuries ago is to be repeated exactly in sending 30,000 of the destitute people of London to supply the demand for labor by the farmers of Virginia. They will not be colonized, but distributed over the State among the farmers. The distribution will be managed by Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture, Koiner, and he expects that the labor will be of signal benefit to the State. The complaint is that many of the negroes will not work at all during the summer months, while the better class are being attracted away by the higher wages paid in the coal mines of West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

PERSONAL.

The youngest notary public in Indiana is Miss Jessie Johnson, of Kokomo. She is 14 years old. She received her commission last week, duly signed by Governor Hanly and Secretary of State Parsons.

Mrs. Fannie Griscom Parsons is to be the first person to fill the office of Director of Farm Colonies in New York City. She will receive a salary of \$2,500. The New York farm colonies have raised all sorts of vegetables, besides keeping the children out of mischief.

A man who had a brief, exceedingly foolish and picturesque career in now dying in Franklin, Pa., with no companion but his faithful wife. His name is John W. Steel, but he was better known to the world by his colonial forerunner as "Colonel Old Johnny." He was 20 years old in 1861, when his foster-mother was blown to pieces while trying to encourage a fire with coal oil. This gave him a very early start under which there were oceans of oil, and a bank account of \$600,000. He had to wait a year to come into possession of his fortune, and he spent that year in plans as to how he would spend the money. He was a very ignorant, inexperienced boy, not even having learned to read or write. When he at last got hold of his money he made a few fly in ways that were absolutely insane. He marched about the streets of towns bedecked with large bills pinned to his clothes and scattered money to everyone he met, giving \$5 for a shoe shine, \$10 for a shave, and so on. He gave his friends money to gamble with, and once caught a hawk and took him to the clerk. He was on board of a cab, then bought it and presented it to the driver. He would buy all the champagne in a New York Hotel at once, and then he would buy a bottle to take his bath. It was customary for him to present a \$100 bill to every good-looking girl that pleased his fancy. It did not matter how old she was, or all of his fortune, and then he sold his oil properties and royalties for a song and soon woke up one morning to find himself dead, his money gone, and his friends left. He had been drinking a job that paid him \$1.50 a day. He wandered out West, living in Kansas, South Dakota, and Washington, but never succeeded in getting on his feet. That paid him more than \$2 a day. A year ago he came back to Pennsylvania to die.

Comrade Increase C. Smith died of apoplexy Dec. 30, on the Steamer City of Atlanta, which runs between Savannah and New York, and of which he was Chief Engineer. He was born in Springfield, Ill., 67 years ago, and entered the insurance business as a bookkeeper in an agency office of the Connecticut Mutual, and his intimate knowledge of the business and executive ability caused his rapid rise. He has been President of the New York Life since 1898. His fortune is represented by millions, and he has a city residence he owns a Summer home in Long Branch, the land of which is said to have cost \$100,000 and other improvements \$400,000 more.

Randal Morgan, the traction magnate, has started his young son to work in the lowest office in his system, and he is expected to learn the routine of duties, to learn street-car building, running, and manipulation generally, in all their details.

John E. Semmes, Jr., a great nephew of Raphael Semmes of Alabama reputation, has been appointed a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.

Alexander E. Orr has been appointed the successor to John A. McCall as President of the New York Life Insurance Co., at a salary of \$50,000 a year, where McCall received \$100,000. It is not known whether Mr. Orr will retain his Presidency beyond April 1, next, when McCall's term would have expired. Orr is a retired merchant, President of the Baptist Transit Commission and a former President of the Chamber of Commerce, and is a director in many financial and philanthropic institutions. He was born in Tyrone County, Ireland, in 1831.

James Hazen Hyde and James B. Alexander have resigned as directors of the Fidelity Trust Co. and of the Union National Bank of Newark, N. J. There seems to be a general disposition among the institutions with which they have been connected to get rid of all association with them.

Elliot D. North, Treasurer of the State of New York from 1890 to 1894, and Chairman of the Democratic State Committee during the first Bryan campaign, died at his home in New York, Jan. 7. He was born in 1819. His youngest son, the late Supreme Court Justice Peter B. Danforth, and admitted to the bar in 1872. He turned his attention to law, and was a member of the New York State Bar Association, and a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor in 1898 on the ticket with Van

Wyck, and was an active supporter of the movement to nominate Judge Parker.

Mary McDonald, a colored woman who claimed to be the third son of Hon. at the Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Persons in Philadelphia, Jan. 7. She claimed to have been familiar with Washington's "Valley Forge" in the winter of 1777-78. She was very vigorous physically, and smoked constantly up until nearly the day of her death.

One of the sensational episodes in Mayor Weaver's campaign in Philadelphia was the arrest last June of John W. Hill, Chief of the Filtration Bureau. Hill has now been placed upon trial for forgery and falsification of his bureau's records, and the indictment contains nearly 200 counts. Very able counsel is employed on both sides.

Brig.-Gen. Francis Fessenden, one of Maine's most distinguished soldiers and a member of a very distinguished family, died at Portland, Jan. 2, at the age of 87. He was the third son of Hon. William Pitt Fessenden, a National character, a Representative and Senator in Congress for many years, and one of the Presidents of the National Treasury. Francis Fessenden graduated from Bowdoin College in 1858, and was studying law when the war broke out. He received a commission as Captain in the 2nd Maine, and recruited great many men for the regiment. He commanded his company at Shiloh, where he was severely wounded in the arm. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel of the 25th Me., and commanded it during its nine months of service, when he received a commission as Major. He was then assigned to the 3rd Maine, and was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General. He was next assigned to the command of the First Brigade, First Division, Hancock's Veteran Corps, and upon the disbanding of those troops was on duty upon the board for the examination of the First Brigade's troops. He was on the Military Commission which tried Capt. Witz. He was brevetted a Major in the Regular Army for Shiloh. He was promoted to Major-General of the war, and promoted to Major-General of Volunteers, Nov. 9, 1865. He was retired with the rank of Brigadier-General, Nov. 1, 1865. He was Mayor of Portland at one time.

Rev. John H. Macomber, Chaplain, U. S. A., retired, has been recently appointed Chaplain of the Department of California, G. A. R. He was born in Essex County, N. Y., Feb. 17, 1826, and when the war broke out was preparing for the ministry. He was a very successful preacher, and was called to the first call, but at the second call he enlisted in Co. C, 11th Vt. Subsequently this regiment was sent to the front, and Macomber, who had by that time become a Corporal, was sent back home with a recruiting party to get additional men to fill up the regiment. On his return he was promoted to First Lieutenant, and the regiment was ordered to join Grant's army for the Wilderness campaign. At Cold Harbor his company was ordered to take a position on the Weldon Railroad, June 23, 1864, and was for three months in prison. Upon exchange he returned to his regiment, and was severely wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, Sept. 2, 1865. Though a bullet passed through his body near the groin, he was able to return in 30 days to his regiment, to the 11th Vt. He was promoted to First Lieutenant, and at the end of his service he was promoted to Captain and put in command of a battalion of the recruits and others of his regiment, and stationed at Fort Fiske, the post located at Port Fiske, being finally discharged in September, 1865. Then he entered the ministry in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was a member of the National Conference, and for 15 years labored in that field, when he received a commission as Chaplain in the Regular Army. He was retired 30 years ago, and was retired for age in 1900. He now makes his home at San Jose, Cal., and has been a member of the Grand Army of the Republic ever since its organization in 1866. He was Commander of the 11th Vt. for the newly-established office of Department Patriotic Instructor, and has issued a stirring circular to the Patriotic Instructors of the Department.

CONGRESS CONDENSED.

Thursday, Jan. 4.—The feature in the session of the Senate was the swearing in of Senator La Follette (Wis.), who was escorted to the Vice President's desk by Senator Spooner.

The galleries were crowded at the time, but soon emptied when the Senators took up a discussion of clerk and messenger hire for the committees of the Senate.

The question was on the repeal of a resolution of Senator Kean, giving messengers to all committees not provided with them. The Senate adjourned until Monday, Jan. 8.

House.—The House began the consideration of the Philippine Tariff bill. Mr. Payne made the opening speech in support of the bill. The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads was directed to investigate the subject of the abuses of the franking privilege, this action being based upon an editorial in the Post.

That portion of the President's Message relative to Federal control of corporations was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to report the powers of Congress in such matters.

Jan. 5.—In the House the debate on the Philippine Tariff bill was continued. Champ Clark (Mo.) occupying the floor for the greater part of the day, and making speeches, arguing in favor of the bill, but declaring his intention to support the bill as a step in the right direction.